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Contact: Carolyn Belardo 215 299-1043, Hbelardo@ansp.org

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BUG COOKING AND ROACH RACES RULE AT FIRST BUG FEST, Saturday and Sunday, AUGUST 16 AND 17

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences is going buggy all day Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17, with roach races, a bug cooking competition, live tarantulas and scorpions, science talks, and even a flea circus.

There's something for everyone at the Academy's first Bug Fest and it's all **free** with museum admission. Grab a sample of cooked bugs from famous Cajun bug chef Zach Lemann and his competitor in the bug cook-off, David Gracer, founder of Sunrise Land Shrimp, which promotes insects as part of a healthy, sustainable diet. Enjoy the seemingly impossible feats of flea strength in Phydeaux's Flying Flea Circus & Wahoo Medicine Show. Find out how insects got trapped in amber millions of years ago and learn how to responsibly collect insects and preserve them.

For the braver members of the family, don't miss the opportunity to touch or hold a tarantula or giant Madagascar hissing cockroach. Cheer your favorite roach on to victory in the roach races. Practice the ancient art of origami by creating beautiful paper butterflies and grasshoppers. Hear experts talk about bugs in art, bugs in science, bugs and non-native plants. And learn about the Academy's world-class entomology collection of 3.5 million specimens that are used by researchers around the world. For a schedule of activities, see www.ansp.org/bugfest.

"Bug Fest is a terrific way to introduce people of all ages to the amazing world of insects and other arthropods and to learn about their ecological importance. But most of all, it's a lot of fun," said Barbara Ceiga, Vice President for Museum Operations. "It's also a great fit for the Academy since we've been studying and collecting insects since 1812."

Here is the schedule of activities for Bug Fest:

ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Flea Circus

Join George Esparza and his "Phydeaux's Flying Flea Circus & Wahoo Medicine Show," a charming throw-back to the Victorian era.

Roach Races

Cheer your favorite roach on to victory in our roach races and learn what makes roaches run. Check the schedule when you arrive.

Insects in Amber

See the worst day in a prehistoric bug's life. Learn how ants and other insects became trapped in amber millions of years ago. Try to rescue a toy bug from a syrup trap.

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Live Tarantulas, Scorpions...

Explore amazing live insects and their cousins including: tarantulas, stick insects, scorpions and more. Touch them if you dare.

Got Bugs?

Learn how to properly collect and pin insects during this hands-on demonstration. Insects, pins and scientific labels provided.

Academy Bug Collecting

Explore some tools that Academy scientists use to collect arthropods for the Academy's world-famous Entomology Collection, the oldest such collection in the Western Hemisphere.

Creepy Crawly Crafts

Take a piece of colored paper, fold it this way, bend it that way, and you've created your own butterfly or grasshopper to take home.

Butterfly Life Cycle

Learn about the different stages in a butterfly's life while making your own butterfly life cycle to take home.

Home Sweet Hive

Visit Outside In, the Academy's museum-within-a-museum, for an engaging look inside the lives of insects. Meet the creative creatures who build the nests, hives and hills that you see in your neighborhood.

Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics

Find out why Mendel's pea experiments were far more successful than his experiments with bees.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

10:30 a.m. Outside In Bug Storytime

11 a.m. Dancin' with the Honey Bees

Join master bee keeper Cliff Sunflower for this wiggle dancin' fun and learn about the wonders of honey bees.

11:45 a.m. Insects as Living Art

Butterflies have been called "living art." But artistic inspiration does not end with butterflies. Beetles, flies, bees—even cockroaches and fleas—have stirred painters, sculptors, poets and jewelry makers. Join Dr. Faith Kuehn of the Delaware Department of Agriculture for a presentation and display featuring some of the many ways insects have enlivened artists' works for centuries.

12:15 p.m. Creepy Crawly Cuisine

Two top bug chefs compete for the title of "Ace of Arthropods" in this cook-off between David Gracer, founder of Sunrise Land Shrimp, and Cajun chef Zach Lemann. The audience will be the judge and get to sample the buggy cuisine.

12:30 p.m. Outside In Bug Storytime

1 p.m. Plant a Butterfly Garden

Thinking about planting a butterfly garden at home? Talk with Academy Butterfly Keeper Mike Sikorski to find out the best native plants to attract these beautiful insects.

1:15 p.m. Are You Smarter Than a Cockroach Game Show

Think you know bugs? Prove it by playing our new buggerific game show.

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2 p.m. Insects as Living Art

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2:15 p.m. Dancin' with the Honey Bees

Join master bee keeper Cliff Sunflower for this wiggle dancin' fun and learn about the wonders of honey bees.

3 p.m. Plant a Butterfly Garden

Thinking about planting a butterfly garden at home? Talk with Academy Butterfly Keeper Mike Sikorski to find out the best native plants to attract these beautiful insects.

3:15 p.m. Creepy Crawly Cuisine

Two top bug chefs compete for the title of "Ace of Arthropods" in this cook-off between David Gracer founder of Sunrise Land Shrimp and Cajun chef Zach Lemann. The audience will be the judge and get to sample the buggy cuisine.

3:30 p.m. Outside In Bug Storytime

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

10:30 a.m. Outside In Bug Storytime

11 a.m. Dancin' with the Honey Bees

Join master bee keeper Cliff Sunflower for this wiggle dancin' fun and learn about the wonders of honey bees.

Noon What's Up With Plants and Insects?

Join Dr. Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair Entomology and Wildlife Ecology University of Delaware for an engaging presentation on non-native plants and invertebrates.

12:15 p.m. Creepy Crawly Cuisine

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12:30 a.m. Outside In Bug Storytime

1 p.m. Do Stink Bugs Really Stink?

Anne Nielson from Rutgers University sets the record straight about the stink bug, common to the region but misunderstood.

1:15 p.m. Are You Smarter Than a Cockroach Game Show

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3–12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for Members and children under 3. There is an additional \$2 entry fee for “Butterflies!”

Founded in 1812, The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and is a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.